

Outdoor

A Publication of the City of Austin Water Conservation Program

Water Conservation

#11
4/26/20

Rainwater Harvesting

Rainbarrel Sales

The Water Conservation Program sells rainbarrels direct from its warehouse. The current price for rainbarrels is \$60 each. Customers may purchase up to four (4) rainbarrels per sale. Each barrel holds up to 75 gallons of rainwater and may be connected to fill several from just one downspout. They come complete with protective screens for the tops plus overflow and drainage hoses. Pre-payment is encouraged to eliminate the need for waiting in what can be long lines during the sales.

Rainbarrel Rebates

You may purchase qualifying rainbarrels and receive a rebate of \$30 each (up to a maximum of four per customer). Call or visit the website for more information.

Large-Capacity Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Rebates of up to \$500 are available to residential and commercial water customers for newly-installed rainwater harvesting systems. Applications must be approved before equipment can be purchased. The application includes a formula to calculate optimum tank size and a list of area suppliers and installation contractors. The applicant agrees to maintain the system for at least five years and to participate in at least two public "demonstration" tours over a two year period.

WaterWise Landscape Rebates

Owners of both new and existing homes, that meet specific program guidelines, may qualify for rebates of \$50 to \$500. To qualify a homeowner must have an average summer water use of over 20,000 gallons per month for the last three years (or as long as you have owned your home, if less than 3 years); or your home must be newly built and less than 1 year old. The landscape design must be submitted and be approved prior to purchase and installation of plants. To receive the rebate, participants must maintain water use at or below the water budget developed by Water Conservation staff for the entire 18-month period beginning six months after installation is completed.

Irrigation Evaluations

Convenient as they are, underground irrigation systems often waste water, unless they are tuned to maximum efficiency and well maintained.

The City of Austin offers FREE irrigation system evaluations to City residential and commercial water customers who use over 25,000 gallons of water during summer months. The evaluations are performed by Water Conservation Program staff upon request by qualifying residents, business owners and managers. The evaluation focuses on the quality of the irrigation system, locating broken or "misting" heads and improperly aimed heads, and then looks at the system's timer frequency and duration. The Water Conservation staff professional will make recommendations for improvements. Some adjustments can be made by the staff person who performs the audit. At other times, you may need to hire an irrigation system repair company to perform your repairs or upgrades (Rebates are available for certain system upgrades.) In any case, you will know exactly what needs to be done to make your system as efficient and economical as possible.

Residential customers who follow recommended watering schedules can save thousands of gallons per month. Commercial customers can expect considerably greater savings. Both residential and commercial customers can achieve these savings while keeping a healthy landscape.

For more information, call 974-2199 or visit www.cityofaustin.org/watercon

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Note: Details and programs in this flyer are subject to change without notice. Check website or call for most current information.